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Message Text

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20
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 IGA-02 SWF-02 SS-20

AGR-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 /134 W
---------- 130621
R 121055Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4239

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TARF: SWEL, EAID, BG
SUBJ: FLOOD RELIEF: PL-480, TITLE I

REF: STATE 198304

1. ACCOMPANIED BY AID COORDINATOR SCHWARZWALDER, AMBASSADOR CALLED ON DEQUTY CHAIRMAN OF PRUNNING COMMISSION NURUL ISLAM SEPTEMBER 11 TO INFORM HIM THAT WE WOULD BE AMENDING OUR TITLE I AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE PROVISION OF 50,000 TONS OF RICE TO MEET THE EXTRAORDINARY REQUIREMENT CREATED BY THE FLOODS, AND TO INFNRM HIM THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDETGEGETABLE OIL IN VIEW OF SUB-STANTIALLY LOWER CROP FORECAST. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE RICE BUT WAS NATURALLY DISAPPOINTED ABOUT THE VEGETABLE OIL.

2. AMBASSADOR ALSO STRESSED OUR NEED FOR THE VERBAL ASSURANCES ON CUBAN TRADE (PARA 4 REFTEL) AND NURUL ISLAM ASSURED US THAT THIS PRESENTED NO PROBLEM.

3. IN REVIEWING LIST OF ACTIONS WE HAD TAKEN TO HELP BANGLADESH IN AFTERMATH OF FLOOD, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS INCLUDED THE TWO AIRLIFTED SHIPMENTS OF FORTIFIED BISCUITS, THAT MORE WOULD FOLLOW BY SHIP, BUT THAT WE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE DELIVERING AS MUCH OF THE BISCUITS AS WE HAD HOPED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE OPERATION.

4. AMBASSADOR AND SCHWARZWALDER ALSO REVIEWED STATUS OF ASHUNGANJ
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FERTILIZER PROJECT, INFORMING NURUL ISLAM THAT WE HAD RAISED THIS

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ISSUE WITH PRIMIN (DACCA'S 4026) IN VIEW OF OUR CONCERN THAT SITE DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BEGIN THIS DRY SEASON AND THAT BANGLADESH WOULD CONSEQUENTLY LOSE A YEAR'S PRODUCTION. NURUL ISLAM SAID HE SHARED ALL OF THE CONCERNS WE FELT ABOUT THIS PROJECT BUT HE SIMPLY COULD NOT FIND THE FOUR TO FIVE MILLION DOLLARS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO COMMENCE THE SITE CLEARANCE. WHEN SCHWARZWALDER EXPLAINED HOW THIS FOREIGN EXCHANGE COULD BE GENERATED FROM DOLLAR REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SOME OF THE EXPENDITURES UNDER OUR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION GRANT, NURUL ISLAM OBSERVED THAT THESE MONIES HAD ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED TO OTHER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND, TO TAKE THEM AWAY NOW FOR FERTILIZER PROJECT, WOULD MEAN DEATH OF ONE OR ANOTHER OF BANGLADESH'S INDUSTRIES. WHILE HE DID NOT PROFESS TO SAY THE LAST WQRD ON ASHUGANJ AND THE REVIEW OF THIS PROJECT INITIATED BY PRIMIN AFTER OUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM LAST WEEK IS PRESUMABLY STILL UNDER WAY, THE POSSIBILITY OF MOVING ON THIS PROJECT THIS YEAR APPEARS INCREASINGLY DIM.
BOSTER

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